The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Great things are not done by idle dreams.—Aughey.

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LABOR INJUNCTION ISSUE IS EASILY UNDERSTOOD

Stripped of mystification, vicious reasoning and acceptance of court edicts and lawyers' views that verge on cult worship, the purpose of the labor injunction is to check wage earners.

The average citizen believes workers have the right to cease work and to ask others to aid their effort to improve conditions.

The employer can not secure aid from a law court to drive workers back to their employment or to divide their ranks or weaken their morale.

These purposes are accomplished by courts of equity, which have ruled that "business is a property right." This means that what was formerly considered a personal right is now embalmed with all the sacredness of property.

This interpretation of property is a revival of the Middle Ages' theory that the right to own land carries with it the right to control sufficient labor to operate that land. This is the essence of serfdom that was sustained by all the powers of government.

For believers in serfdom the labor injunction is a logical step.

If strikers ask other workers to refrain from employment, this interferes with "property," and can be enjoined.

If strikers ask friends to desist from patronizing an unfair employer, this injures business and comes under equity.

If strikers' friends contribute money to aid their cause, this delays the time when the workers will be forced to return to their employment, thus injuring "property."

If friends aid workers in resisting eviction, they are less liable to return to work than if they and their families were thrown on the highways, and this can be enjoined.

If unionists refuse to handle non-union products, they can be jailed for violating an order that they must work against their will, as contrary action injures "property."

Decisions in the Hitchman, Eagle Glass, Duplex, Granite City, Coronado, Truax and Bedford cases under the Sherman anti-trust law and Clayton amendments have swept every right from labor.

These decisions place trade unionism at the mercy of irresponsible equity judges.

Organized labor asks that the equity process be restored to its original status—that the injunction can only be used to protect tangible and transferable property when the plaintiff has no remedy at law.

Opponents well know the effect of such legislative enactment.

Then every striker charged with crime would be treated in the law courts as if no strike existed. The employer could not turn his strikebreaking troubles over to an injunction judge, who commands and jails at will.

No longer would personal rights, such as to do business, to labor, good will or patronage, be considered property rights that must be exalted at the cost of human rights.

Our courts could then not be used to compel workers to labor against their will, as the United States Supreme Court ordered in Bedford cut stone case.

The labor injunction issue is a simple problem to any man who will cling to fundamentals and who will reject tangled sophistries that have been woven into it by crafty lawyers and property-worshiping judges who retain the serf outlook.

JUDGE SCORES "YELLOW DOG"; CAR COMPANY DENIED COURT AID

New York, Feb. 18.—Judge Wasservogel of the New York Supreme Court has denied the Interborough Rapid Transit Company's application for an injunction to protect its "yellow dog."

The court ruled that this alleged contract is unequitable and unenforceable. This sweeps the foundation from the corporation's company "union."

The decision is a sweeping vindication of labor's opposition to an agreement in which workers are forced to waive their right to join a trade union as the price for employment.

The company included in its injunction plea everyone within the court's jurisdiction—every unit of the American Federation of Labor, President Green and other officials, the Amalgamated Street Car Men's Association, and "all others."

The company's plea has been vigorously contested by organized labor, and an elaborate defense was presented. The attention of the court was called to the social and moral aspects of the "yellow dog," which, if upheld, would outlaw trade unions.

The decision is one of several blows dealt this corporation which is attempting to defeat trade unionism, and raise rates to continue extravagant salaries and dividends on watered stock.

President Green denounced the rate increase, and pledged labor's opposition to the plan. The city has secured an injunction that restrains the enforcement of the increase.

The subways were built mainly by city money and are operated by the Interborough. The defiance of popular will by this corporation has brought it to the verge of bankruptcy.

Priest Scores Low-Wage Bosses Who Would First Beautify City

Fall River, Mass., Feb. 18.—Low-wage employers of this city were assailed by Rt. Rev. James E. Cassidy of St. Patrick's Church at a mass meeting of his parishioners called by the clergyman to discuss conditions in this city after the recent fire.

"Widespread as may be the stories, it is ridiculous to say that this fire, terrible and extensive though it be, will have any serious effect upon the city's future," said the priest.

"No propaganda press, public or private, shall this time deceive us. This conflagration, dire though be its destruction and deeply to be regretted, shall not be used, if I can prevent it, to throw off a smoke screen to obscure the real issue from the public.

"The forces that are undermining public confidence in this city's future are neither fire nor flame nor falling walls.

"The future of this city depends upon the willingness of capable cotton manufacturers to pay employes a living wage.

"And though bitter be the criticism that may come upon me, I shall not stand idly dumb while men are nominated as reconstructors of our city and restorers of the public confidence in it, men who with one hand are making a gesture of building it up and with the other are the first to pull it down; who, with one hand may be directing the laying of bricks and mortar and beautifying the streets, and with the other are snatching, yea, even the milk from mothers' breasts, let alone the bread from children's mouths and clothes from their backs, and roofs from over their heads.

"What this city needs is not so much reconstruction and beautifying along bankers' and brokers' row. What is needed is restoration of wages to the operative, refilling of his dinner pail, refurnishing his home.

"The lives and living and comfort and well-being of thousands of mill operatives in this city are of infinitely more concern than the building in beauty of all the banks and offices in the world."

CARPENTERS WIN

Chicago, Feb. 18.—Organized carpenters won a nine-months' strike against two interior finishing firms.

The union scale of $1.20 an hour and a 44-hour week is restored.

SENATORS WILL PROBE VICIOUS COURT ORDER

Washington, Feb. 18.—Testifying for the Shipstead anti-injunction bill before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, President Green asked that the injunction issued by Federal District Judge Baltzell of Indianapolis be investigated by the committee.

President Green cited the order as a sample of one-man government.

Judge Baltzell enjoined the Street Car Men's Union of Indianapolis from enlisting membership or calling a strike. Robert B. Armstrong and John M. Parker, organizers, were sentenced to jail for contempt of court.

The hearings developed that the company employed spies and detectives who gained admission to the union. The company corrupted Harry Boggs, president of the union, who was paid $50 a week by the company and who was one of the loudest under-cover men in advocating the strikers to "cut loose." Armstrong and Parker were not connected with appeals for violence. They were found guilty of disobeying the order not to solicit membership. They are now confined in jail. Boggs escaped being penalized and the company's incitement to violence was ignored by the court.

President Green showed how the Supreme Court's decision in the Bedford cut stone injunction operates. That court order compels organized stone cutters to handle non-union stone. A foreman who had been included in the injunction, and who was blacklisted by Indiana non-union stone employers, obtained work in Denver but refused to handle the Bedford output. He was advised that this refusal would place him in contempt of court and fearing arrest he returned to work.

PRIVATE PENSIONS "BAD BUSINESS"

Individual department store owners, in their convention in New York City, declared against pensioning old employes.

These employers have evidently discovered that this system is "bad business." An investigation by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that not one of these systems is on a sound basis and that eventually employers will have to pay unexpected large amounts or repudiate their agreement.

The discovery has weakened faith in this parternalism, and department store owners are getting back to fundamentals by favoring a wage that will permit employes to save for old age.

This change will be a sad blow to uplifters and publicity agents.

CONFUSING THE ISSUE

The Shipstead anti-injunction bill provides that no court order shall be issued except to protect property. Nothing shall be held to be property unless it is tangible and transferable.

Opponents claim such a law would invalidate patents, trade-marks and copyrights.

Patents, trade-marks and copyrights are tangible. They are real, substantial evident. They are the sole possession of the owner, who is protected by law, just as is the owner of houses, land or money.

All of these can be sold or otherwise transferred, and use of same, without the owner's authority, can be enjoined in an equity court. The owner of such property can also sue for damages in a civil court.

The power to labor, good will or patronage are neither tangible or transferable. They are inherent in each individual.

RIGHTS OF LABOR ARE INVADED WHEN COURTS AID EMPLOYERS

Washington, Feb. 18.—"Under the guise of protecting property, injunction suits have been instituted to advance any kind of private or corporate interest or prospect, regardless of the rights of workmen," said Senator Shipstead, in explaining his anti-injunction bill to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

"There is nothing in the field of private or corporate interest of a commercial character that the arbitrary power of equity has not invaded in the name of 'property.'" he said.

Senator Shipstead pointed out that in the past 30 years there have been innumerable decisions by State Supreme Courts on labor injunction issues, with every diversity of opinion imaginable and very many decisions of the United States Supreme Court in which that court is frequently divided, some times six to three, often five to four. Congress, he said, should defin jurisdiction so that every court in the land may know clearly the law expressing the will of Congress with relation to equity jurisdiction.

"In the case, Truax vs. Corrigan, the United States Supreme Court stood five to four (in outlawing the boycott)," said Senator Shipstead. "The four dissenting justices, Holmes, Pitney, Clark and Brandeis, held that the Arizona legislature had authority under the Constitution, to limit court jurisdiction in labor injunction cases, notwithstanding the Fourteenth Amendment. The majority of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Taft, held that only Congress had this power. The entire Supreme Bench, as I understand, conceded the power of Congress to define and limit equity jurisdiction.

"Blackstone recognized property as something tangible and transferable, something more than a speculation, something more than a claim, something more than a prospect. Today an employed force of skilled workmen build up a business and by their toil bring profits to the employer. Failing to receive what they believe to be a fair share of the profits as their wages, they combine to improve their condition and to bring the employer to fair terms. They employ the methods called 'boycott' and 'picketing.'

"The employer fights their demands by invoking injunction in the so-called 'equity' court. They are commanded by the judge to cease their methods aimed to better their condition and are threatened with fine and imprisonment. This is called 'equity.' It is equivalent to saying that an employer has a property right, a vested interest, in the work of the wage earners who by toil build up his business and produce his profits. Using Blackstone's language, the employer, in effect, assumes that he has a property right, 'the sole and despotic dominion,' a right 'in total exclusion of the right of any other individual' in the workmen and patronage of the public. What he calls 'business' is simply the industry of the workmen and patronage of the public.

"To this looseness of definition and this failure to justly limit equity jurisdiction, we may fairly attribute much of the evil of arbitrary powers in so-called 'settling,' but in fact magnifying the differences and unsettling the relations between capital and labor.

"If this country is to be governed by law enacted by the people, the jurisdiction of courts of equity must be limited in order to prevent a gradual drift toward government by individuals."

MORRISON MAKES PLEA FOR RIGHTS OF WORKERS

Washington, Feb. 18.—"Courts are more eager to protect property than man," said Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., in urging the Senate Judiciary Committee to favor the Shipstead anti-injunction bill.

Mr. Morrison said the courts have whittled the effectiveness of the Clayton act and labor must start another drive to restore their rights.

The trade unionist reviewed the history of the A. F. of L.'s long fight against the labor injunction. He recalled that in 1907 President Van Cleave of the National Association of Manufacturers called upon that association to contribute $500,000 a year for three years to fight trade unions in the courts. In that year, he said, three officials of the A. F. of L. were sentenced to terms of one year, nine months and six months for violating an injunction directing the Federation to refrain from stating that the Van Cleave firm was unfair to organized labor. Trouble with this firm originally started in its metal polishing department.

Secretary Morrison submitted a list of decisions by the United States Supreme Court which annulled labor's rights.

BLIND MAN PROTESTS CONVICT LABOR PLAN

Washington, Feb. 18.—Peter J. Salmon, blind since the age of 11, made an eloquent plea against prison labor competing with free labor at a hearing on the Hawes-Cooper bill before the House Labor Committee.

The bill would remove the interstate feature from prison-made goods and permit States to regulate their sale, just as certain States now do with prison-made goods manufactured within their own jurisdiction.

Representatives of union garment manufacturers and organized labor protested against the prison contract system. They agreed with Salmon that it is impossible to meet the competition of prison labor.

HOOVER TO DIRECT ECONOMIC SURVEY

Washington, Feb. 18.—Secretary of Commerce Hoover appointed a committee to make a study of economic currents of the nation.

The inquiry is to determine facts with regard to shifts in employment, changes in methods of production in industry and agriculture and in distribution, shifts in relative price levels and profits, movements in the business cycle, shifts in standards of living, foreign trade, foreign credit and other allied subjects.

Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L., will represent the workers.

FLOUR FOR MINERS

St. Paul, Feb. 18.—The Minnesota Federation of Labor will send a car load of flour to striking coal miners.

Secretary-Treasurer Lawson calls on trade unions, railroad brotherhoods and sympathizers to contribute to relieve destitution in the soft coal area.

COAL OWNERS-I. W. W. STAGE PILLOW FIGHT

Denver, Feb. 18.—The State Industrial Commission is holding hearings on the coal strike in this State that was originally called by the I. W. W. but who have been pushed to the background.

The Colorado Labor Advocate, official paper of the State Federation of Labor, has charged that the coal operators imported I. W. W.'s to foment trouble and make the presence of troops necessary. The labor publication now points to the brotherly feeling between the I. W. W.'s and the coal operators before the commission.

"I. W. W. leaders who are attending the hearing avoid asking any questions which might embarrass the operators," says the labor paper. "There seems to be a deliberate attempt upon the part of these leaders and the operators to discredit the United Mine Workers as much as possible."

The president of one coal company declared that coal operators of this state believe in collective bargaining "providing that no demands are made on the coal operators and employes are not allowed to strike."

SHADOWING JURIES IS COMMON PRACTICE

Washington, Feb. 18.—The government has set an example in shadowing juries, was the charge made by attorneys for Detective Burns and oil operators who are accused of spying on the Sinclair-Fall jury. The government claimed members of the jury were followed by Burns men, and Justice Siddons ended the trial. The detectives are now before the judge on contempt proceedings.

"The government has continuously indulged in jury espionage, and in the absence of law a citizen has the right to believe it must be lawful to shadow a jury if the government practiced it," said one of the defense attorneys.

MINERS IN DISTRESS; IOWA AIDS STRIKERS

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 18.—A trade union delegation is touring Iowa in the interest of starving miners in Appanoose county, who are resisting a 20 per cent wage reduction.

The unionists tell an almost unbelievable story of hardships, judicial tyranny and political opposition to the workers. The leading coal owner is so influential, no business man dare extend credit to miners, and the supervisors of that county refuse to vote aid to destitute families. Children are hungry and without proper clothing and shoes. The houses have been stripped of everything that can be sold.

RADIO TRUST ATTACKED

Washington, Feb. 18.—A radio trust is in full operation, declared Ernest R. Reichmann, counsel for the Radio Protective Association, testifying before a Senate committee. He said the trust is spending enormous sums of money to create a patent situation whereby it can intimidate and coerce every one else out of business. The Radio Corporation of America is a member of the trust, according to the attorney.

COURTS AID EMPLOYERS; LABOR'S RIGHTS IGNORED

Washington, Feb. 18.—"The basic rules of equity are set aside in labor injunction procedure," said John P. Frey, secretary treasurer A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department, in favoring the Shipstead anti-injunction bill before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The trade unionist traced the injunction process, first used in England and woven into the judicial system of the United States. Property was then defined as tangible and transferable. In recent years, however, courts have included intangible and nontransferable elements, such as good will and other personal rights, said Mr. Frey.

The trade unionist insisted that the original purpose of the injunction should be restored, and that property rights and personal relations should be separated.

WOMEN'S LABOR LAW IS AGAIN ATTACKED

Boston, Feb. 18.—The women's 48-hour law is again attacked in the state legislature. Textile interests formerly led this fight, but they have failed so often that they are permitting others to publicly plead for long hours for women.

The present law provides that women must cease work at 6 o'clock in the evening. The amendment would make 10 o'clock the limit.

STORE MEN OPPOSE PENSION SYSTEMS

New York, Feb. 18.—Pensions for old age employes was criticised by speakers at the convention of the National Retail Dry Goods Association.

Two thousand department store owners heard Ralph C. Hudson, president of the association, declare that pension systems led to the pauperizing of old employes. He favored training employes in work they could efficiently do in old age when they had outlived their usefulness in more difficult tasks.

Delos Walker of the Macy department store, this city, said pensions failed to answer the problem and suggested increasing employes' earnings, protection of their health and encouragement of thrift.

He said employers had no economic responsibility to old workers provided they had paid them enough so that they could save for their declining years.

JUDGE WANTS CENSOR OVER STATE PAPERS

Oklahoma City, Feb. 18.—Chief Justice Branson of the State Supreme Court wants newspapers placed under state censorship. If a newspaper is convicted of making three misstatements, the property should be seized.

Carl Magee, editor of the Oklahoma News, declares the plan is "illegal and so impractical as to be absurd."

Magee gave the Senate oil probe committee the first intimation of former Secretary of the Interior Fall's prosperity, following the transfer of the Teapot Dome and Elk Hills oil reserves to private interests. This hint started the committee on the right trail.

Mine Strike Probe Is Favored; Railroads Back Coal Owners

Washington, Feb. 18.—The Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce unanimously agreed to make a favorable report on the Johnson (Cal.) resolution directing a Senate investigation of conditions in the Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania coal fields.

No representative of the coal owners or the railroads refuted evidence offered by the unionists to prove that anarchy reigns in these States.

Philip Murray, vice president of the United Mine Workers, told the committee that the railroads are joined with coal owners to crush the strike against repudiation of the Jacksonville agreement. The railroads use approximately one-third of the total output of these mines. Present freight rates are based on a coal price of $2.40 and $2.50 a ton, but they have forced the price down to as low as $1.40 a ton and pocket the difference.

"The influence of the railroads is tremendous in the mining fields through their immense purchasing power and other influential connections," said Mr. Murray.

Coal owners are interlocked with railroad interests, the witness citing the case of R. B. Mellon, brother of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, who is a director of the Pittsburgh Coal Company and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

"Among the first to abrogate the Jacksonville agreement was the Pittsburgh Coal Company, the largest commercial producer of bituminous coal in the world," said Mr. Murray. "This concern maintained relations with the Miners' Union for 35 years until August 10, 1925. It can produce 22,000,000 tons annually and it normally employs 16,000 men."

The witness declared that imported gunmen, legalized by the State of Pennsylvania, and paid by the coal companies, have established a record of atrocities "that represent the most outrageous practices known to government."

"The mining fields of Pennsylvania are polluted by these thugs, all in uniform, carrying nightsticks, machine guns, tear bombs and other implements of modern warfare," Mr. Murray said. "There have been 85 murders in the strikebreakers' camps, mostly of the Pittsburgh Coal Company. Governor Fisher has made many promises to end the wild orgies of these company-paid privateers, but his policy has been consistently sympathetic to the strikebreakers."

UNION FOES SQUEAL; ARE DENIED FAVORS

Baltimore, Feb. 18. — The Manufacturers' Record is furious because an anti-union conference, held in Jacksonville, Fla., was denied special privileges by the municipal radio in that city. This publication revives the old slander that the Typographical Union dictates to newspapers what they may publish.

The radio is closed to trade unions on the ground that controversial topics are barred. When the anti-union conference announced that speeches would be radioed, the unionists asked for an opportunity to reply. To be consistent, the radio management applied its rule to the anti-unionists.

"Jacksonville," says the Manufacturers' Record, "has thus given an illustration of the evil power of unionism, and perhaps in that respect it has done for the anti-union movement great good by showing what unionism will do whenever it gets an opportunity, but we regret that Jacksonville, despite the efforts of the mayor, thus deliberately slapped in the face of men of affairs from all parts of this country."

The Manufacturers' Record continues along this line, oblivious to the fact that it insists on privileges denied others.

STATE COMPENSATION FAVORED BY OFFICIAL

New York, Feb. 18.—State monopoly of workmen's compensation and the elimination of private compensation concerns is favored by State Industrial Commissioner James A. Hamilton.

With an exclusive state fund, Mr. Hamilton said, employers would not only be saved nearly 28 per cent of the premiums they now pay, but they would be relieved of responsibility for injury or death of employes. Under the present system, if an insurance company fails, the employer is responsible.

FAKE "UNIONS" AIDED BY EQUITY PROCESS

Washington, Feb. 18. — Company "unions" are just what their name implies—"creatures of the corporations," said William Green, A. F. of L. president, in supporting the Shipstead anti-injunction bill, now considered by a Senate committee.

The purpose of employers, said Mr. Green, "is to strip labor of its economic strength through the courts."

"These alleged 'unions' mean nothing to the workers, save to satisfy their instinct to organize. If a worker joins a real union, the court cites him for contempt."

STRIKERS RELEASED

Belleville, Ill., Feb. 18.—The appellate court at Mt. Vernon has reversed Judge George A. Crow's sentence of 18 striking enamel workers for contempt of court. The unionists had been sentenced to from 60 to 120 days' imprisonment and pay court costs and fines that range from $50 to $200.

The appellate court upheld the theory of one-man government by refusing to release ten strikers.

FAKE RAIL "UNION" DISSOLVED BY COURT

Houston, Texas, Feb. 18.—Federal Judge Hutcheson has given three railroad officials the choice of abandoning their company "union" or staying in the Harris County jail until they obey the court's order.

The defendants, who have ten days to make their choice, are the executive vice president and the general manager and his assistant of the Southern Pacific lines of Texas and Louisiana.

The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks secured a temporary injunction against denial of their right to organize under the railway labor act. The court order was ignored and the officials were declared in contempt of court.

Judge Hutcheson told the defendants they must recognize the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks until a secret ballot of employes is taken under court supervision, abandon their company "union," reinstate brotherhood members discharged during the dispute, pay attorney fees and expenses incurred by the brotherhood and give brotherhood officials all privileges enjoyed by representatives of the company "union."

PICKETS HAVE STOVES IN SMALL UNION TOWN

South Langhorne, Pa., Feb. 18.—Chenille rug weavers, striking against the Eden Company's 10 per cent wage cut, rented an abandoned police box from the borough council and set up the structure on a piece of ground opposite the mill. The box is equipped with a small stove and convenient windows make it possible for pickets to observe the plant without suffering from wintry blasts.

The president of the borough council is Charles F. O'Brien, an active member of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers.

OF COURSE NOT!

Duluth, Minn., Feb. 18.—The Minnesota Building Employers' Association has fixed a maximum wage for building trades' workers this year, and William E. McEwen, veteran editor of the Labor World, says:

"They didn't fix a maximum price they would pay for lumber, brick, cement, hardware or other things they will use in the construction of buildings."

AUTO WORKERS GAIN

San Francisco, Feb. 18.—Asphalt workers have raised wages 50 cents a day.

WORKERS ARE TRICKED BY OVERLAND AUTO CO.

Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 18.—The City Common Council has ordered an investigation of organized labor's charge that the Willys-Overland Automobile Company is flooding this city with unemployed while laying off Toledo residents.

"This auto plant," said one councilman, "is creating an army of out-of-works with the result that the city's poor relief bills are mounting higher and higher. I understand that the company keeps up its advertisements for help in outside papers and uses outside employment agencies to keep gangs of men clamoring for work."

The new arrivals have no guarantee of steady employment, as they are classed as "Toledo citizens" and discharged when a new batch of job seekers are shipped in.

Organized labor is appealing to workers not to be trapped by these untruthful advertisements or to believe the claim that there is a demand for labor in this city.

NON-PARTISAN PLAN TO INTEREST FARMERS

Washington, Feb. 18.—In a statement signed by President Green and Secretary Frank Morrison, on authority of the A. F. of L. Executive Council, workers are called upon to not only interest farmers in labor's non-partisan political program, but to renew their determination to elect friends of social justice and "defeat those whose records demonstrate that they disregard the people's rights."

State, city central and local unions are urged to appoint committees to aid this movement.

"Let no one assume that the presidential campaign of 1928 will be less free from influence, secret or otherwise, tending to swerve wage earners from the proven and effectively established non-partisan political policy of the A. F. of L. than have presidential campaigns in the past 22 years.

"Keep ever before you these watchwords:

"We will not vote for a candidate who has opposed remedial legislation urged by labor.

"We will vote only for those candidates who have proved that the interests of all the people are above the selfish demands of the few."